

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8115
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0803

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR EAID EALR PORG LA

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL AID PROJECTS TO LPDR PLANNED FOR 1977

REF: VIENTIANE 0515

SUMMARY: LPDR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS OFTEN EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. REALIZING IT HAS FEW RESOURCES TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO AID THE POPULATION IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL, THE LPDR IS EAGER FOR EXTERNAL AGRICULTURAL AID. THE FOLLOWING CABLE OUTLINES BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AGRICULTURAL AID PROJECTS TO THE LPDR PLANNED FOR 1977.

1. ROGER POLS, FAO LIVESTOCK EXPERT, TOLD EMBOFF THAT UNDP/FAO AND WORLD BANK FUNDS ARE BEING USED FOR A SWINE BREEDING PROJECT THAT OFFICIALLY STARTED IN
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JANUARY, 1977. THE UNDP/FAO MADE A \$133,000 "PRE-INVESTMENT" CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT TO FUND PRELIMINARY RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND EXPERTISE TO INITIALLY SET UP TWO STATIONS OF GRANDPARENT BREEDING SOWS. EACH STATION WILL BE STOCKED WITH 60 SOWS IMPORTED FOR THEIR BREEDING SUPERIORITY. THE UNDP/FAO HAS FURTHER PROPOSED AN ADDITIONAL \$200,000 TO PROVIDE

EXPERTISE TO SUPERVISE THE EXPENDITURE OF THE WORLD BANK CONTRIBUTION. THE WORLD BANK HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE \$1.5 MILLION FOR KBUILDING CONSTRUCTION, OPERATIONAL COSTS, AND TO PURCHASE A PROJECTED 3000 PIGS.

2. FAO PHYSICIAN DR. BERNARD IS SUPERVISING A LIVE-STOCK VACCINE PRODUCTION AND DISEASE DIAGNOSIS PROJECT AT NONG TENG LIVESTOCK CENTER IN THE VIENTIANE PLAIN, WHERE ONE OF THE SWINE BREEDING STATIONS IS LOCATED. A UNDP OFFICIAL, FREDERICK LYONS, TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE UNDP/FAO HAS PROVIDED \$95,150 IN 1976 AND WILL PROVIDE ANOTHER \$92,265 IN 1977 FOR EXPERTISE, TRAINING, AND EQUIPMENT TO ESTABLISH THE PROJECT. THE WEST GERMAN BASED CHURCH VOLUNTARY AGENCY "BREAD FOR THE WORLD" WILL CONTINUE THE PROJECT BY PROVIDING BUILDINGS AND CAPITAL EQUIPMENT.

3. POLS TOLD EMBOFF THAT IN 1977 THE FAO INTENDS TO MOVE THE CATTLE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION PROJECT NOW LOCATED ABOUT 60 KILOMETERS FROM VIENTIANE TO NONG TENG LIVESTOCK CENTER. FUNDS BUDGETED FOR THE PROJECT WILL BE USED TO SET UP A DAIRY TO SUPPLY MILK FOR THE VIENTIANE MARKET.

4. A UNDP REPRESENTATIVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE UNDP/FAO HAD BUDGETED \$57,500 IN 1977 FOR PRE-INVESTMENT IN A POULTRY HATCHING PROJECT. THIS WILL BE USED FOR PROJECT RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND SOME EQUIPMENT. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK HAS A PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE \$1.5 MILLION OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT BY PROVIDING FUNDS FOR BUILDINGS, ANIMALS, AND OPERATIONAL COSTS.

5. THE FAO IS PROVIDING \$600,000 WORTH OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM (TCP) FUNDS TO THE LPDR IN 1977, AS REPORTED REFTEL. THE FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR: PROVIDING A VETERINARIAN TO TRAIN LAO EXTENSION WORKERS IN BASIC VETERINARY PROACTICES; PROVIDING AN AGRICULTURAL MACHINE EXPERT TO ALSO TRAIN LAO EXTENSION WORKERS; AND PROVIDING VEGETABLE SEEDS TO FARMERS IN NORTHERN LAOS WHOSE CROPS WERE DAMAGED BY INSECTS LAST GROWING SEASON.

6. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT PROVIDED A \$1.5 MILLION SOFT TERM LOAN TO THE LPDR FOR A PROJECT TO DEVELOP MAIZE AND SOY CROPS.

7. THE SOY AND MAIZE PRODUCE FROM THIS PROJECT WILL BE USED IN A UNDP LIVESTOCK FEED MILL PROJECT. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL UNDP FIGURES, THE UNDP BUDGETED \$133,150 IN 1977 FOR PRE-INVESTMENT IN THE LIVESTOCK FEED MILL PROJECT. THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DELAYED, HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE LPDR HAS REFUSED TO APPROVE A UNDP ITALIAN EXPERT AND HAS REQUESTED THE UNDP SEARCH FOR A BULGARIAN EXPERT INSTEAD.

8. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SPONSORS A PASTURE SEED AND MULTIPLICATION PROJECT WHERE ONE AUSTRALIAN EXPERT DEVELOPS IMPROVED GRASS SEEDS IN THE VIENTIANE PLAIN. THE AUSTRALIAN EXPERT HOPES THAT LAO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE EXTENSION WORKERS WILL DISTRIBUTE THE SEEDS THROUGHOUT LAOS. A TOTAL OF \$100,000 WAS BUDGETED FOR THE 1976-77 FISCAL YEAR ENDING IN JULY BUT ONLY \$60,000 HAS BEEN SPENT SO FAR.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0803

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9. DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (QUAKERS) IN VIENTIANE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS ORGANIZATION OFFERED \$6,000 TO PURCHASE DRAUGHT BUFFALO FROM THAILAND TO SEND TO THE PLAIN OF JARS. THE LAO AGREED TO THE PROJECT ONLY IF THE ANIMALS WERE PURCHASED IN THE VIENTIANE PLAIN AND NOT IN THAILAND.

10. THE UNDP/FAO WILL CONTINUE THE SOIL AND FERTILIZER PROJECT IN 1977. SOIL EXPERT AND PROJECT DIRECTOR GEORGE ROMAGNOLI TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT ARE TO DEVELOP AN INEXPENSIVE FERTILIZER USING LOCAL MATERIAL SUCH AS SAWDUST AND BACTERIA; TO ESTABLISH A SOIL ANALYSIS LABORATORY; AND TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO THE LAO DEPARTMENT OF SOIL. THE UNDP/FAO EXPENDED \$125,400 FOR THE PROJECT IN 1976 AND HAS BUDGETED ANOTHER \$139,900 FOR 1977. ROMAGNOLI ANALYZED THE SOIL IN THE PLAIN OF JARS AND PAKSE REGION AND MAY ESTABLISH SOIL ANALYSIS CENTERS THERE. CONFIDENTIAL

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11. THE UNDP HAS BUDGETED \$135,650 FOR 1977 FOR A RICE PRODUCTION PROJECT. THE PROJECT ENVISIONS IMPROVING LOCAL RICE TYPES, INTRODUCING IMPROVED RICE SEEDS, ESTABLISHING DISTRIBUTION CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY FOR SEEDS AND EQUIPMENT, AND CREATING RICE SEED PRODUCTION STATIONS. THE WORLD BANK ALSO CONTRIBUTED \$700,000 TO THIS PROJECT.

12. THE UNDP HAS PROPOSED A THREE YEAR PROJECT FOR AGRICULTURAL PLANNING AND HAS BUDGETED \$58,150 FOR THE FIRST YEAR IN 1977. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT ARE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR NATIONAL PLANNING AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

13. ACCORDING TO THE VIENTIANE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE DIRECTOR, THE NORWEGIAN QUAKERS WILL SUPPLY \$200,000 FOR AN AGRICULTURAL MACHINE REPAIR SHOP AND TRAINING CENTER TO BE LOCATED IN VIENTIANE. AMERICAN BASED QUAKERS HAVE HIRED AN AMERICAN EXPERT TO SUPERVISE THE PROJECT BUT HIS NAME HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY THE LAO GOVERNMENT.

14. THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY ALL EXPENSES FOR TWO PHILIPPINE RICE EXPERTS SCHEDULED TO COME TO LAOS IN 1977. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR OF THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE, THE EXPERTS WILL WORK WITH A PROJECT TO INTRODUCE "MIRACLE RICE" DEVELOPED IN THE PHILIPPINES.

15. THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT PROVIDED TWO AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE EXPERTS IN 1976 AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN 1977. THE EXPERTS ARE NOT GIVEN OPERATIONAL FUNDS OR EQUIPMENT BY THEIR GOVERNMENT BUT ARE ASSIGNED TO THE LPDR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AS ADVISORS.

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16. THE USSR PROVIDED THE LPDR WITH A 32 MILLION RUBLE SOFT TERM LOAN TO BE USED PRIMARILY FOR A LIVE-STOCK AND WATER WORKS PROJECT IN VIENTIANE. PART OF THE FUNDS, HOWEVER, WILL BE USED TO ESTABLISH AN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE IN THE XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE.

17. THE JAPANESE EXPERIMENTAL RICE FARM AT THA NGON IN THE VIENTIANE PLAIN TERMINATED APRIL 1977 BECAUSE THE LAO GOVERNMENT FAILED TO REQUEST ITS CONTINUED OPERATION. JAPANESE AID EXPERT TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE BELIEVED THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO TURN THE JAPANESE PROJECT INTO A COOPERATIVE FARM.
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